

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television broadcast signal onto and from an information recording medium, comprising:

sound absence period detection means for detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the television broadcast signal;

audio mode detection means for detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television broadcast signal;

scene changing point detection means for detecting a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television broadcast signal;

scene changing point distance measurement means for measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by said scene changing point detection means;

CM detection means for using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a CM included in the television broadcast signal;

CM detection control means for controlling said CM detection means;

sound absence period detection control means for controlling said sound absence period detection means; and

initialization means for initializing the parameter or parameters.

2. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said CM detection control means limits the processing of said CM detection means when it is known that the television broadcast signal includes no CM.

3. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said CM detection control means limits the processing of said CM detection means when the television broadcast signal has a low signal level.

4. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said CM detection control means controls said CM detection means to start its processing before recording of the television broadcast signal is started.

5. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sound absence period detection control means limits the processing of said sound absence period detection means

at a predetermined point of time.

6. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said initialization means initializes the parameter or parameters when discontinuity occurs with the television broadcast signal.

7. A broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said initialization means restores the initialized parameter or parameters when the television broadcast signal recovers after discontinuity occurs with the television broadcast signal.

8. A broadcast signal recording and playback method for a broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television broadcast signal onto and from an information recording medium, comprising:

a sound absence period detection step of detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the television broadcast signal;

an audio mode detection step of detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television broadcast signal;

a scene changing point detection step of detecting

a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television broadcast signal;

a scene changing point distance measurement step of measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by the processing in the scene changing point detection step;

a CM detection step of using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a CM included in the television broadcast signal;

a CM detection control step of controlling the processing of the CM detection step;

a sound absence period detection control step of controlling the processing of the sound absence period detection step; and

an initialization step of initializing the parameter or parameters.

9. A recording medium on which a computer-readable program for controlling a broadcast signal recording and playback apparatus for recording and playing back a television broadcast signal onto and from an information recording medium is recorded, the program comprising:

a sound absence period detection step of detecting a sound absence period of an audio signal included in the

television broadcast signal;

an audio mode detection step of detecting an audio mode of the audio signal of the television broadcast signal;

a scene changing point detection step of detecting a scene changing point of a video signal included in the television broadcast signal;

a scene changing point distance measurement step of measuring the distance between scene changing points successively detected by the processing in the scene changing point detection step;

a CM detection step of using at least one of the sound absence period, the audio mode and the distance between scene changing points as a parameter to detect a CM included in the television broadcast signal;

a CM detection control step of controlling the processing of the CM detection step;

a sound absence period detection control step of controlling the processing of the sound absence period detection step; and

an initialization step of initializing the parameter or parameters.